



**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE EDUCATION FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP ACT**

**WHEREAS**, Article XI, Section 12 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, requires that the General Assembly “shall provide for the maintenance, support and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools;” and

**WHEREAS**, public schools that provide a free and appropriate education for all, including students with disabilities, require all available state funding in order to continue to improve without necessitating an increased burden on local taxpayers or reducing services for students; and

**WHEREAS**, vouchers often divert public funds from the many who attend public schools to supplement those families who have already chosen a different option for the education of their children; and

**WHEREAS**, Elizabethton City Schools educates and serves every eligible student in our community who wishes to enroll; and

**WHEREAS**, Elizabethton City Schools is fully transparent to parents and the public as the district adheres to open record requests and state-mandated academic and financial standards; and

**WHEREAS**, all educational institutions receiving public funds should have the same accountability and performance reporting expectations so that parents and the public may better understand the use and efficacy of those public funds; and


**WHEREAS**, school choice already exists via district transfers, home schools, virtual schools, and private schools.

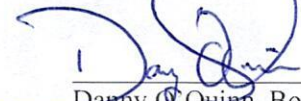
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED ON THIS 18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2024**, that the Elizabethton City Schools Board of Education strongly urges the Tennessee General Assembly to reject the Education Freedom Scholarship Act or similar voucher initiatives that would divert public dollars away from public schools.

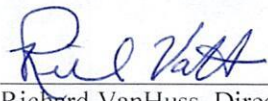
  
Eddie Pless, Board Chair

  
Jamie Schaff, Board Vice-Chair

  
Ed Alexander, Board Member

  
Phil Isaacs, Board Member

  
Danny O'Quinn, Board Member

  
Richard VanHuss, Director of Schools